1954 No. 758

The Ploughing Grants Scheme, 1954

Made - - - - 4th June, 1954

The Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, being the appropriate Minister within the meaning of paragraph (*c*) of subsection (2) of section five of the Agriculture (Ploughing Grants) Act, 1952(a), in relation to a joint scheme for England and Wales and Northern Ireland, in pursuance of the said Act and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, with the approval of the Treasury, hereby makes the following scheme, of which a draft has been laid before Parliament and has been approved by resolution of each House of Parliament:—

1. This scheme, which may be cited as the Ploughing Grants Scheme, 1954, shall apply to England and Wales and Northern Ireland.

2.—(1) In this scheme, unless the context otherwise requires, the following expressions have the meanings hereby respectively assigned to them:—

"the Act" means the Agriculture (Ploughing Grants) Act, 1952;

"grass" includes clover, lucerne or sainfoin or mixtures of clover, lucerne or sainfoin with grass;

"land under grass" includes any grazing land;

"the Minister" means the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries;

"occupier" in Northern Ireland includes the person who, by virtue of an agreement, whether written or otherwise, has the right to the use of the land at the time of the completion of the operations referred to in Parts I and II of this scheme.

(2) In England and Wales the Interpretation Act, 1889(b), and in Northern Ireland that Act as applied by the Interpretation Act, 1921(c), shall apply to the interpretation of this scheme as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

PART I

3.—(1) Subject to this scheme a grant may be made by the Minister under this part thereof in respect of the ploughing up of land under grass and the carrying out of such further operations on the land after ploughing as are necessary to produce a crop on that land either in the year 1955, or (if in special circumstances the Minister approves before such ploughing up) in the year 1956:

Provided that a grant shall not be made in respect of the ploughing up of land under grass and the direct re-seeding of the land to grass after ploughing unless the Minister is satisfied that it is in the interests of good husbandry that the land should be directly re-seeded to grass, and he certifies accordingly.

In the foregoing proviso references to the direct re-seeding of land to grass include re-seeding of the land both to grass and to any other crop grown for grazing by livestock.

(2) The person to whom such a grant may be made shall be the occupier of the land on completion of the operations in respect of which the grant is payable.

(a) 15 & 16 Geo. 6 & 1 Eliz. 2. c. 35. (b) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63.
(c) 12 Geo. 5. c. 4 (N.I).

4. The rate of grant to be made in accordance with this part of this scheme shall be five pounds per acre:

Provided that in calculating the amount of a grant fractions of an acre less than one quarter of an acre shall be disregarded.

5. A grant under this part of this scheme may only be made where the land ploughed up—

(*a*) is not less than one acre in area ;

(*b*) was ploughed up from grass within the period beginning with the 1st day of June, 1954, and ending with the 31st day of May, 1955 ; and

(*c*) at the time when such ploughing up was begun was under grass that had been sown before the 1st day of June, 1951, or had been continuously under grass since before that date.

6. A grant shall not be made under this part of this scheme in respect of any land (except in special circumstances if the Minister so decides) unless written notice of the ploughing up of such land is given by the occupier to the Minister not later than twenty-one days after the ploughing of such land, or, in the case of land ploughed up before this scheme was made, not later than twenty-one days after the making thereof.

PART II

7.—(1) Subject to this scheme a grant may be made by the Minister under this part thereof in respect of the following operations—

(*a*) the ploughing up of land under grass ;

(*b*) after ploughing, the carrying out of such further operations on the land as may be required by the Minister as are necessary, or form part of the operations necessary, to bring the land into a state of cleanliness, fertility, and fitness for cropping ; and

(*c*) the sowing of a crop, unless the Minister otherwise determines.

(2) Except as provided by subparagraph (3) hereof a grant shall not be made under this part of this scheme in respect of any land unless before the commencement of any operations in respect of which such a grant is payable the Minister approves of such operations in relation to that land and is satisfied that the carrying out thereof on that land is likely to involve expenditure which is substantially heavier than normal for operations such as are specified in subparagraph (1) hereof.

(3) As respects land on which any such operations have been begun within the period beginning with the 1st day of June, 1954, and ending with the date on which this scheme was made, a grant may be made by the Minister if it appears to him that had this scheme been made before the commencement of such operations he would have approved thereof and would have been so satisfied as aforesaid, and he certifies accordingly.

(4) The person to whom such a grant may be made shall be the occupier of the land on completion of the operations in respect of which the grant is payable.

8. The rate of grant to be made in accordance with this part of this scheme shall be ten pounds per acre:

Provided that in calculating the amount of a grant fractions of an acre less than one quarter of an acre shall be disregarded.

9. A grant under this part of this scheme may only be made where the land ploughed up—

(*a*) is not less than one acre in area ;

(*b*) was ploughed up from grass within the period beginning with the 1st day of June, 1954, and ending with the 31st day of May, 1955 ; and

(*c*) at the time when such ploughing up was begun was under grass that had been sown not later than the 4th day of May, 1939, or had been continuously under grass since before that date.

PART III

10. The Minister may require an applicant for a grant under Parts I or II of this scheme to give to any person authorised by the Minister in that behalf reasonable facilities for the inspection of any land to which the application relates.

11. Where in the opinion of the Minister—

(*a*) the ploughing or any further operation in respect of which a grant under Parts I or II of this scheme may be made has been inefficiently carried out, or

(*b*) adequate facilities for the inspection of the land in respect of which such a grant may be made have not been given ;

the grant shall not be of an amount greater than the Minister considers reasonable.

12. If in respect of any of the operations in respect of which a grant is payable under Parts I or II of this scheme payments of moneys provided by Parliament under any enactment other than the Act are available, the Minister in determining the amount of grant payable under Parts I or II of this scheme may take into consideration such payments, and may reduce the amount payable under this scheme accordingly.

13. Any person who desires to apply for a grant to be made in accordance with the provisions of Part I of this scheme shall apply to the Minister—

(*a*) in writing in such form as the Minister may from time to time require, and

(*b*) before the 31st day of July, 1955, or before such later date as the Minister may in special circumstances allow.

14. Nothing in this scheme shall authorise the Minister to make a grant under both Parts I and II thereof in respect of the same operations.

In Witness whereof the Official Seal of the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries is hereunto affixed this fourth day of June, nineteen hundred and fifty-four.

(L.S.)

Tom Dugdale,
Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Approved,
4th June, 1954.

Edward Heath,
Martin Redmayne,
Two of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Scheme, but is intended to indicate its general purport.)

This scheme, which is the fourth scheme to be made by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries under the Agriculture (Ploughing Grants) Act, 1952, provides for the making of grants at two different rates in respect of land ploughed up from grass, where after ploughing the operations described in the scheme are carried out. Except for the consequential advancing of dates as indicated below, the terms of the scheme are similar in all respects to those of the Ploughing Grants Scheme, 1953 (S.I. 1953/1092).

Under the first part of the scheme a grant may be made at the rate of £5 per acre where after ploughing a crop is grown in 1955, or, if in special circumstances the Minister approves before ploughing takes place, in 1956; but if after ploughing the land is directly re-seeded to grass (or to grass and any other crop grown for grazing by livestock), the grant is only payable if the Minister certifies such direct re-seeding to be in the interests of good husbandry. In order to qualify, the land ploughed up must have been sown to grass before the 1st June, 1951, and must be ploughed up between the 1st June, 1954, and the 31st May, 1955.

The second part of the scheme relates to operations which the Minister is satisfied are likely to involve abnormally heavy expenditure on land that has been down to grass since 1939. Under this part a grant may be made at the rate of £10 per acre in respect of the ploughing up of land between the 1st June, 1954, and the 31st May, 1955, and its preparation for cropping; but, with one exception relating to work already begun before the scheme was made, the grant is payable only if the Minister approves beforehand of the operations in relation to the land in question.

Persons wishing to apply for a grant under the first part of the scheme must do so before the 31st July, 1955.

GUARANTEED PRICES

1954 No. 1056

The Agriculture Act (Part I) Extension of Period Order, 1954

Made - - - -	*6th July,* 1954
Laid before Parliament	*8th July,* 1954
Coming into Operation	*6th August,* 1954

The Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Secretary of State for Scotland and the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in pursuance of subsection (2) of section four and subsection (1) of section eight of the Agriculture Act, 1947(a), and of all other powers enabling them in that behalf, with the approval of the Treasury, hereby make the following Order:—

1. This Order may be cited as the Agriculture Act (Part I) Extension of Period Order, 1954, and shall come into operation on the 6th day of August, 1954.

(a) 10 & 11 Geo. 6. c. 48.